Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T JERUSALEM 2133

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, MILI, UNSC, IS, LE

SUBJ: WALDHEIM'S LETTER TO BEGIN

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SYG'S LETTER TO BEGIN DATED AUGUST 1.

2. BEGIN QUOTE:
DEAR MR. PRIME MINISTER.
THE MOST RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON ARE A CAUSE OF GRAVE CONCERN NOT ONLY TO THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT BUT TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE. THESE DEVELOPMENTS DIRECTLY AFFECT PEACE AND STABILITY IN THAT REGION, AS WELL AS THE SUCCESSFUL FULFILLMENT OF THE TASK ENTRUSTED TO THE UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL.
AS YOU KNOW, THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT DECIDED ON 29 JULY TO DESPATCH THE FIRST CONTINGENT OF THE LEBANESE ARMY TO SOUTH LEBANON. THIS DECISION WAS THE FIRST PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION OF AN OBJECTIVE WHICH HAS LONG BEEN DESIRED, NOT ONLY BY THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT ITSELF, BUT BY ALL THOSE, INCLUDING, AS I HAVE BEEN REPEATEDLY ASSURED. THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL, WHO ARE ANXIOUS TO SEE THE SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON REGULARIZED
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AND STABILIZED. ON LEARNING OF THE LEBANESE DECISION, I GAVE INSTRUCTIONS TO THE COMMANDER OF UNIFIL THAT HE SHOULD TAKE ALL POSSIBLE MEASURES TO FACILITATE THE DEPLOYMENT OF THIS UNIT OF THE LEBANESE ARMY IN THE UNIFIL AREA OF OPERATIONS.
TO MY SURPRISE AND CONCERN, THE REACTION OF MAJOR HADDAD AND THE DE FACTO FORCES IN THE AREA WERE NEGATIVE TO THIS MOVE. EVEN WORSE, WHEN THE LEBANESE CONTINGENT, WHICH IN ITS MAKE-

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UP AND SIZE CAN BY NO CONCEIVABLE STRETCH OF THE IMAGINATION
BE A THREAT TO MAJOR HADDAD AND HIS VERY WELL-EQUIPPED FORCES,
ARRIVED IN THE AREA, THEY WERE NOT ONLY THREATENED BUT FIRED
UPON BY THE DE FACTO FORCES. AT THE PRESENT TIME THIS LAMEN-
TABLE SITUATION CONTINUES, AND IT IS ONLY WITH THE GREATEST
DIFFICULTY THAT THE UNITED NATIONS FORCES IN THE AREA, WHO HAVE
ALSO BEEN UNDER FIRE FROM THE DE FACTO FOCES, HAVE MAINTAINED
CALM WHILE TRYING TO NEGOTIATE THE MISUNDERSTANDINGS WHICH
HAVE CLEARLY CAUSED THIS DEPLORABLE REACTION BY MAJOR HADDAD'S
FORCES. IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT THE UNITED NATIONS FORCES
IN THE AREA AND THE LEBANESE ARMY HAVE SHOWN THE UTMOST RESTRAINT
IN THE FACE OF PROVOCATIVE AND HARASSING FIRE DIRECTED ON THEM
BY THE DE FACTO FORCES. IT IS CLEAR THAT THIS INTOLERABLE
SITUATION, IN WHICH BOTH THE LEGITIMATE FORCES IN LEBANON
AND UNITED NATIONS TROOPS ARE BEING FIRED AT BY THE DE FACTO
FORCES, CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE.

I AM DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT THE POSITIVE INITATIVE OF THE
LEBANESE GOVERNMENT IN SENDING ITS FORCES TO THE SOUTH IN ORDER
TO RE-ESTABLISH LEBANESE SOVEREIGNTY AND AUTHORITY IN THE AREA
MAY BE FRUSTRATED BY THESE DEVELOPMENTS. IF THIS SHOULD HAPPEN,
NOT ONLY WILL IT BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR UNIFIL TO FULFILL ITS MAN-
DATE, BUT THERE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS IN
A MUCH WIDER SPHERE, POSSIBILY INVOLVING MEETINGS OF THE SECURTY
COUNCILAS WELL AS REACTIONS IN OTHER QUARTERS. I AM NATURALLY
CONCERNED THAT THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE FIRST UNITS OF THE LEBANESE
ARMY IN THE AREA OF TIDNIN SHOULD BE ACHIEVED SUCCESSFULLY.

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ALL THAT IS REQUIRED TO THIS END IS THAT THE LEBANESE UNITS BE
ALLOWED TO TRNSIT PEACEFULLY THROUGH THE AREA UNDER THE CONTROL
OF THE DE FACTO FORCES.

IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, I WOULD ASK YOU TO MAKE ALL POSSIBLE
EFFORTS TO EFFECT THE CHANGE IN ATTITUDE IN THE LEADERSHIP OF
THE DE FACTO FORCES WHICH WILL BE NECESSARY IF THIS PEACEFUL
TRANSIT IS TO BE ACHIEVED. I BELIEVE THAT SUCH A RESULT IS
IN THE INTEREST OF ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED, INCLUDING THE
GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL. I WOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL FOR YOUR HELP
AND CO-OPERATION IN THIS MOST IMPORT MATTER.

YOUR SINCERELY, KURT WALDHEIM END QUOTE.
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